Issue 1 • 2007 www.uscg.mil/magazine





SPECIAL PICTORIAL ISSUE



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Coast Guard, COMDT PUB P5720.2, is produced for members of the U.S. Coast Guard. Editorial content is unofficial and not authority for action. Views and opinions expresseddonotnecessarilyreflectthoseofthe Department of Homeland Security or the Coast Guard. Stories may be reprinted except Associated Press wire stories and articles reprinted from other publications.



Story by PA1 Mike O'Berry, CG Magazine

n typical fashion, the Coast Guard was defined in 2006 not by a single event, but by an unflinching adherence to "standing the watch."

Besides the major events, such as welcoming the 23rd Commandant Adm. Thad Allen and christening the fleet's first national security cutter, the Coast Guard steadily held its vigil as homeland defenders, thwarted a drug kingpin, introduced a new sidearm and starred in a major motion picture.

In fiscal year 2006, Coast Guard crews recorded another stellar counter-drug year, intercepting 287,035 pounds, or 143.5 tons, of cocaine. Crews also seized 9,059 pounds of marijuana.

One highlight was the capture of Mexican drug lord Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix in August. The suspected drug cartel kingpin is the leader of a major,

violent gang known as the "Tijuana Cartel," which is responsible for digging elaborate tunnels under the U.S. border for smuggling drugs.

Also in fiscal year 2006, the Coast Guard saved 5,271 lives, responded to more than 250 oil spills over 100 gallons, conducted more than 10,000 port state control boardings and performed nearly 8,000 fishing vessel inspections. In 2006, the Coast Guard interdicted 6,093 illegal migrants.

The Coast Guard christened the CGC Bertholf on Nov. 11. The Bertholf is the service's first new high endurance cutter to be built in more than 35 years and is the fleet's new flagship vessel.

Another important milestone was reached Dec. 21 when the first HC-144A mediumrange maritime patrol aircraft touched down at the Coast Guard Aviation Repair and Supply Center in Elizabeth City, N.C.

The HC-144A is the first all-new aircraft delivered to the Coast Guard as part of the Deepwater Acquisition Program.

Also, Communication Area Master Stations (CAMS) received the second of three system upgrades. The new high frequency automatic link establishment system automatically

conducts a scan of pre-defined frequencies and establishes a communication circuit with the best link quality, reducing the operator workload of manually searching for the best frequency.

On the law enforcement front, the new P229R-DAK .40-caliber handgun manufactured by SIGARMS, replaced the venerable M9 9 mm Beretta pistol.

The president celebrated the Coast

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◆ CHANGING OF THE GUARD Adm.

Thad Allen speaks during the Coast Guard change of command May 25 at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

Photo by PA1 Barry Lane, CG Image



▲ HIGH FLYING DEEPWATER ASSET A newly re-engined HH-65C helicopter from Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., flies low over the Atlantic Ocean Jan. 21.

Guard's Hurricane Katrina successes at the Commandant's Change of Command ceremony May 25 with the awarding of the Presidential Unit Citation to the entire Coast Guard workforce.

In his first speech as commandant, Allen said, "Whether it be among the oil platforms of the Persian Gulf or the rooftops of New Orleans, we strive for mission excellence to provide this country the security, the safety and the stewardship of our oceans demanded in an uncertain time and an often dangerous world. We cannot, nor will we, retreat from that commitment to mission execution."

Another Coast Guardsman reaching the stars was Capt. Dan Burbank, the Coast Guard's second astronaut, who took his second trip to space aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis Sept. 21.

On this trip, Burbank served as a mission specialist, flight engineer, lead robotics operator and even got the chance for his first spacewalk. In his description of his spacewalk, Burbank tossed around words such as "tremendous," "exhilarating" and "exuberant."

Last fall, Touchstone Pictures released "The Guardian," the first movie in more than 50 years to be produced in a completely Coast Guard setting. Starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher, the movie highlighted the Coast Guard rescue swimmer program, was filmed with the assistance of several Coast Guard units around the country and featured three Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technicians.

In sports, the Coast Guard Academy Bears reached a number of milestones in athletic competition.

The women's volleyball team was a standout. They became the first varsity team in Academy history to advance to the "Elite 8" in a NCAA Divisional championship tournament, by winning the NCAA Division III New England regional tournament as well as the new England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference regular season tournament championship. The Bears finished 26-3 overall and 8-1 in conference play.

The football team clinched the New England Football Conference Bogan Division championship and was invited to the ECAC Bowl after going undefeated in division play.

The women's cross country team also won their first ever NEWMAC championship, and the men's rugby team will defend their USA Rugby Division II National Championship title this spring.

As with every year, 2006 included more accomplishments than can be listed here. From international engagements, to launching the new 33-foot Special Purpose Craft small boat, to supporting the nation's urgent and growing energy needs by extensively analyzing the maritime safety and security of LNG and wind farm facility proposals, the Coast Guard continues to focus on mission execution.

On the following pages, you'll find a pictorial tribute to the Coast Guard's dedication to service. From graduation day at the Academy, to daring rescues, to life aboard a cutter at sea, we've tried to capture the essence of 2006.









handcuffing as a control

enforcement training held at Naval Station Cartagena,

Photo by PA2 Lisa Hennings,

USCGR

technique during law

Colombia, March 13.

sailed 10,980 nautical miles during a 64-day counter-narcotics patrol in the southern Caribbean from Feb. 17 to April 19.

Photo by PA2 Lisa Hennings, USCGR



WINTER

▶ JOINT FORCE, ONE FIGHT The CGC Wrangell rendezvous with the USS Ronald Reagan in the Persian Gulf March 8. During the three-hour encounter, the largest NAVCENT combatant treated the smallest to a close-up view of flight operations

and much appreciated hospitality.

Photo by PHC Spike Call, U.S. Navy





◆ FUEL FOR FLIGHT

Three refueling team members (wearing purple) prepare the fuel hose for a hot refuel of an MH-68A HITRON helicopter aboard the CGC Escanaba March 1. The fourth crewmember, wearing a proximity suit and carrying a potassium bicarbonate (PKP) fire extinguisher, stands ready.

Photo by PA2 Lisa Hennings, USCGR

members of the Honolulu aids to navigation team change a dayboard at Pohakuloa Point Light on the island of Lanai, Hawaii, March 11. Once a year the ATON team flies trucks and equipment to the outer islands to maintain the aids.

Photo by PA2 Brooksann Anderson, 14th Dist.









◆ CHOW TIME

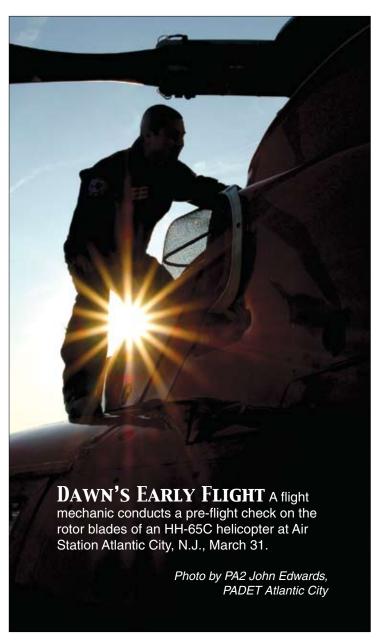
FS2 Martin Espinoza checks over the noon meal before serving the crew of the CGC Sturgeon Bay, homeported in Bayonne, N.J., while on patrol in New York Harbor March 22.

Photo by PAC Tom Sperduto PADET New York



▲ LEGAL LIMIT BM1 Luis Catala takes measurements of lobsters off-loaded from the F/V Guardian at the Boston Fish Pier March 28. The 71foot trawler, homeported in Boston, ran aground in the vicinity of Graves Light and began taking on water. Station Point Allerton responded to the distress call and brought the Guardian's crew and their vessel to the Boston Fish Pier.

Photo by PA2 Lisa Hennings, USCGR

















◆ CAMOUFLAGED CREWPort Security Unit 312 practices small

boat operations on San Francisco Bay May 24. Each PSU has six fast and maneuverable transportable port security boats (TPSBs) outfitted with two-175 horsepower outboard engines.

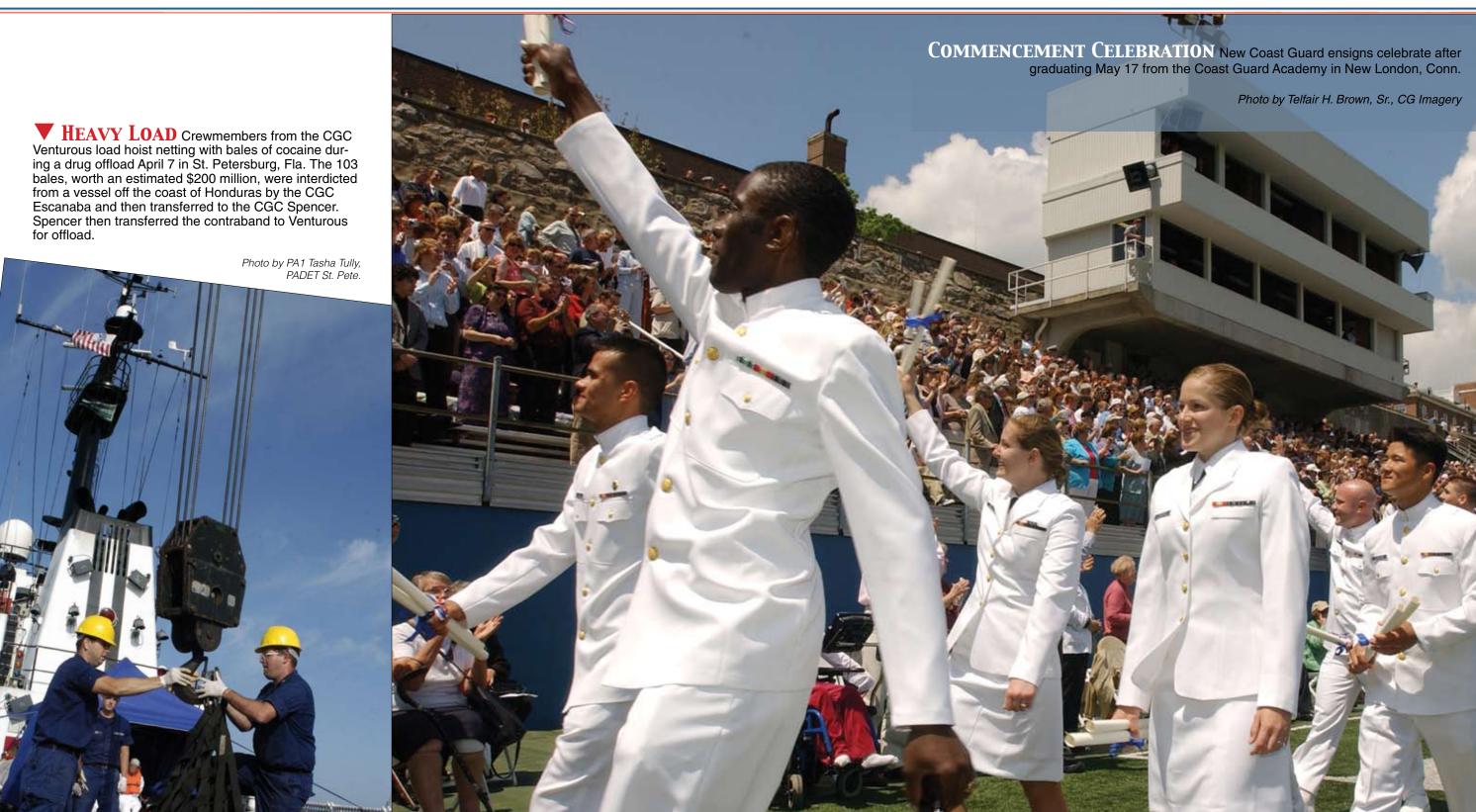
Photo by Linda Vetter, Coast Guard Auxiliary



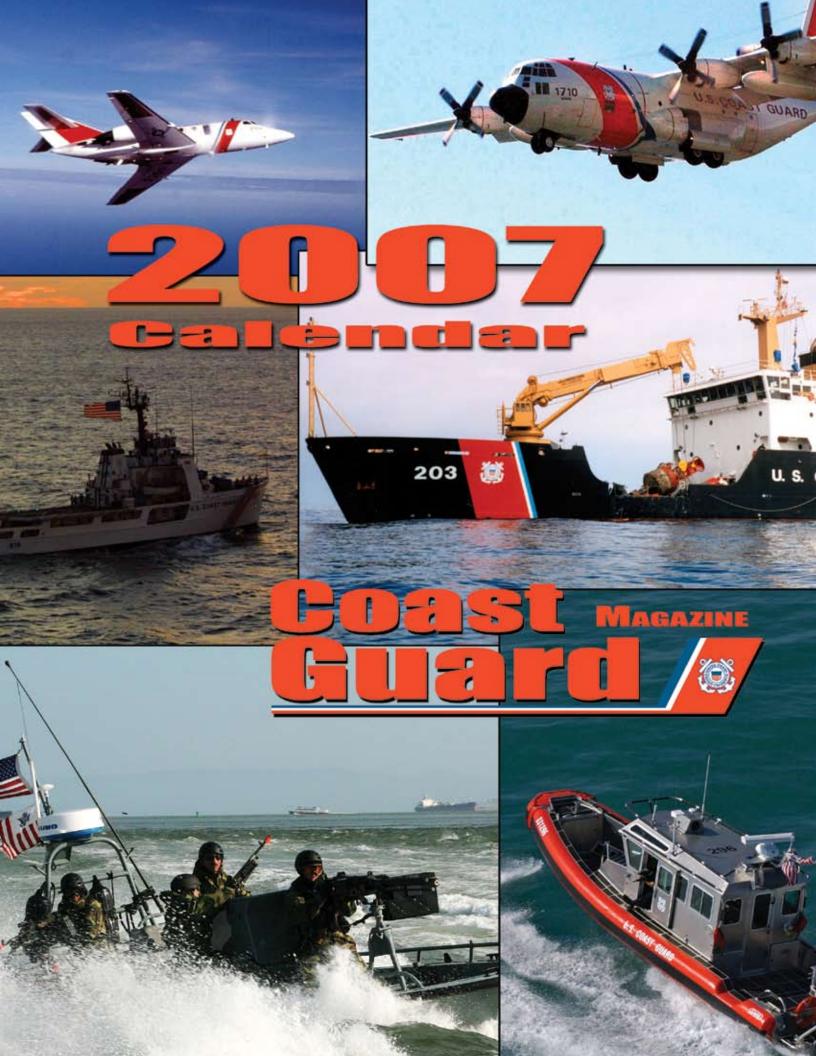
CRASH VICTIM Coast Guard Firefighter Teresa Scott, AST3 Ben Cournia, Lt. Doug Atkins and AMT1 Wade Bryant carry a survivor from a helicopter to triage after a plane crash in Hallo Bay, Alaska, May 22. A DeHaviland Beaver float plane operated by Andrew Airways crashed in Hallo Bay with six people on board. The Coast Guard rescue coordination center in Juneau, Alaska, received the call about the downed aircraft and dispatched aircrews from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak to respond.























Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Galveston, Texas, engages a role player during a security drill in Galveston Aug. 30. Crewmembers fired blanks during multiple gun fights both on the water and on the pier.

Photo by PA2 Adam Eggers, PADET Houston

▼ HANGING IN THERE After a brief dip the in Atlantic Ocean, ASTC Harold Hoffmaster is hoisted back into an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter during a swimming training exercise near Woods Hole, Mass., Sept. 28.

Photo By PA2 Luke Pinneo, 1st Dist.



A LIGHT IN THE DARK Crews from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., conduct rescue swimmer training off the coast of

Photo by PA1 Kyle Niemi, PADET Atlantic City

the city Sept. 18.



▲ CHILD'S PLAY Five children from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, along with members of their American host families, are treated to a boat ride by Coast Guard Station Gloucester, Mass., July 11. The children are living with families in the Boston area while they are treated for various medical problems caused by radiation from the 1986 explosion of the Chernobyl, Ukraine, nuclear power plant.

Photo by PA3 Lauren Downs, 1st Dist.

■ WAVES OF EMOTION Family members remember their loved ones at the 10th Anniversary of TWA Flight 800 Ceremony at Smith Point County Park in Shirley, N.Y., July 17. Flight 800 was a TWA passenger flight that disintegrated while flying from John F. Kennedy International Airport, N.Y., to Charles de Gaulle International Airport, Paris, France, in July of 1996, killing all 230 aboard.

Photo by PA3 Angelia Rorison, PADET New York

▲ STAR GAZING Actors Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher visit Alameda, Calif., Aug. 28 to recognize local Coast Guard heroes and to promote the movie "The Guardian." Both actors, who portray rescue swimmers in the movie, praised and thanked the entire Coast Guard for their brave and courageous service. Crewmembers on the CGC Munro watch from above

Photo by PA1 Alan Haraf, 11th Dist.

◀ FLARING UP MK1 Dominic Montessi lights a smoke flare signaling the beginning of the 81st annual Chincoteague pony swim in Chincoteague, Va., July 26.

Photo by PA3 Kip Wadlow, LantArea











▲ EVENING

REVIEW BM3 Dan Heitzer of Coast Guard Station Atlantic City reviews boarding documentation Aug. 16 during the boarding of the sailing vessel Valour.

> Photo by PA1 Kyle Niemi, PADET Atlantic City

◆ SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE Patrol

Forces Southwest Asia commodore, Capt. Daniel McClellan, gives a tour of the Coast Guard training facility in Manama, Bahrain, to an Iraqi coast guard admiral July 12.

Photo by PA2 Allyson Taylor-Feller, PATFORSWA

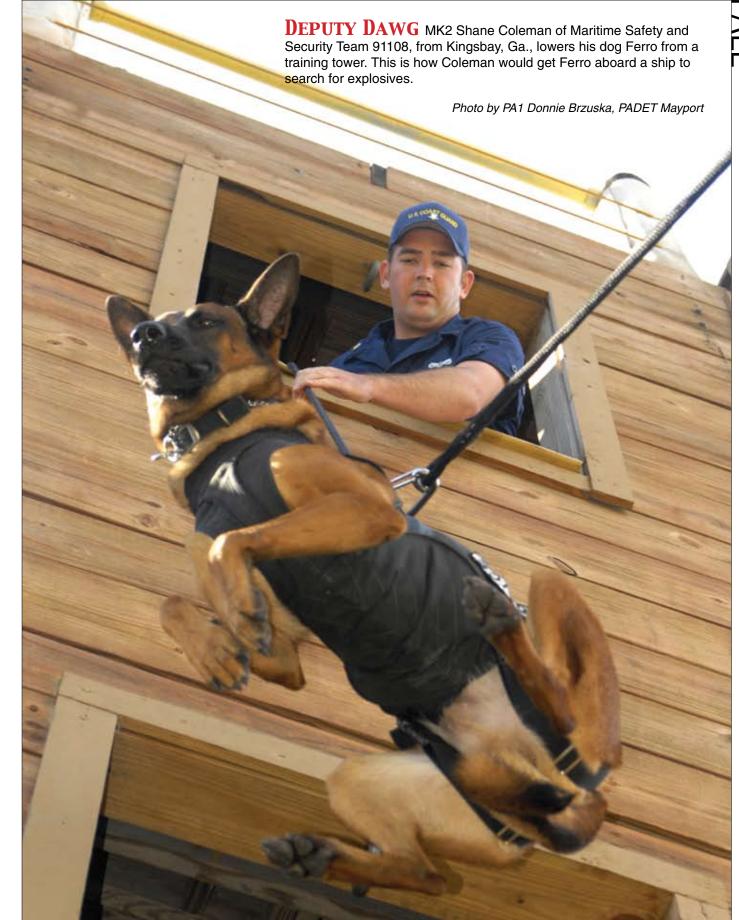






▲ WALK IT OFF Frank Griner of Ocean County, N.J., is transferred from a rescue helicopter to EMS at the Atlantic City International Airport Oct. 3. Griner was airlifted by the Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City rescue helicopter crew after the crash of his airplane about a half-mile north of the Hammonton Municipal Airport.

Photo by PA1 Kyle Niemi, PADET Atlantic City





ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOATCrewmembers from Air Station Los Angeles

Crewmembers from Air Station Los Angeles swim out to a life raft during water survival training Oct. 19.

Photo Courtesy of Tina Epperson

▼ LOCKED AND LOADED BM2 Andrea Toledo, a crewmember from Station San Diego, aims an M224 tactical light machine gun during security operations in the port of San Diego Dec. 4. Station San Diego provides security for Port San Diego. The Port serves as a transshipment facility for the region, which includes San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial counties, plus northern Baja California, Arizona and points east.

Photo by PA3 Mary Larkin Jones, PADET San Diego



▲ DON'T LOOK DOWN AMT1 William Green, Air Station Cape Cod, Mass., guides MST2 Peter Salatino, Sector New York Tactical Operations Division, out of an HH-60 helicopter's door during vertical insertion training at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., Nov. 16.

Photo by PA2 Dan Bender, PADET New York





► ARMED IN OMAN BM1

Andrew Daly keeps a sharp lookout while conducting an investigative boarding off the coast of Oman. The CGC Midgett had been deployed since September and is one of many U.S. and coalition ships supporting Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which conducts operations in the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Photo by PA2 Mariana O'Leary,



FRESH WATER WASH DOWN A

41-foot utility boat goes through heavy weather training on Lake Erie Nov. 11.

Station Lorain, Ohio



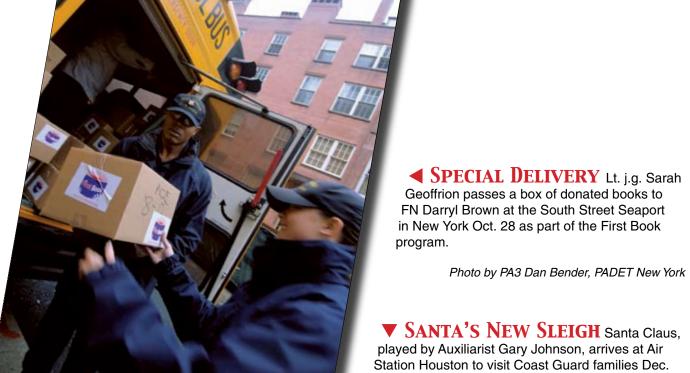
incoming 47-foot motor lifeboat crew at Merrimack River in Newburyport, Mass., Dec. 6.

Photo by PA2 Luke Pinneo, 1st Dist.

► CHART CORRECTIONS BM3 Luis Cabrera corrects a nautical chart Oct. 6 at Station New Orleans. Unlike road maps, nautical charts are often corrected because the position of objects, such as buoys, often changes with tides and currents.

Photo by PA1 NyxoLyno Cangemi, 8th Dist.





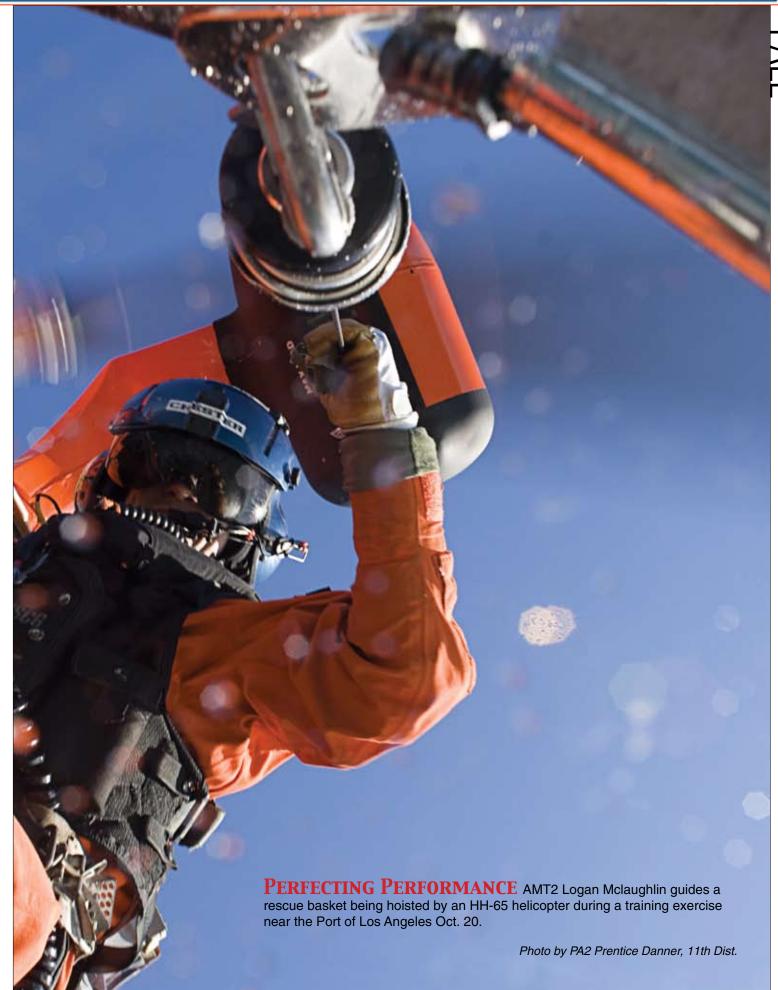


2. Santa chose to arrive via HH-65C to hand out presents to the children this year instead of his usual

Photo by PA3 Mario Romero, PADET Houston

reindeer and sleigh.





SHIELD OF FREEDOM CGC Pea Island, a 110-foot patrol boat, and an Air Station Clearwater HH-60 helicopter patrol in front of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg, Fla., June 8.

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